

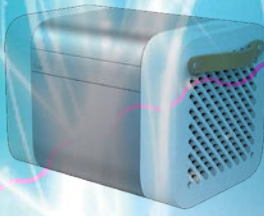
INDIA
TODAY

INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE

**GG
&**

GADGETS
AND GIZMOS

February 2015 / ₹50 / www.gadgetsnow.com



**GG
CHOICE:**
Asus
X205TA



**CES
@2015**

**NEWS AND
GADGETS
FROM CES
FLOOR**



DCP No. F.2(I/I) Press/2009



newsflicks

Smart News FOR Smart Generation

Now on your phone

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD



Available on the
App Store



ANDROID APP ON
Google play

www.newsflicks.com



Editor-in-Chief: Aroon Purie
Assistant Editor: Nidhi Singal
Assistant Art Director: Amit Sharma
Senior Visualiser: Raj Verma
Production: Surinder Hastu (Chief of
Production), Harish Aggarwal,
Vijay Sharma, Naveen Gupta

Chief Executive Officer: Ashish Bagga
Group Business Head: Manoj Sharma
Associate Publisher(IMPACT): Anil Fernandes

IMPACT TEAM

SENIOR GENERAL MANAGERS (IMPACT):
Kaustav Chatterjee (East),
V. Somasundaram (Chennai),
Jitendra Lad (West),
Head (North)—Dipayan Chowdhary
Product Head: Jaykumar Mistry

SALES AND OPERATIONS

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER: D.V.S. Rama Rao
SENIOR GENERAL MANAGER (NATIONAL): Vinod Das
GENERAL MANAGER (SOUTH): Deepak Bhatt
GENERAL MANAGER (WEST): Rajesh Menon
REGIONAL MANAGER (EAST): V.A. Chotalia
GENERAL MANAGER (OPERATIONS): Rakesh Sharma

Volume 7, Number 10;
February-March 2015



Copyright Living Media India Ltd. All rights reserved throughout the world.
Reproduction in any manner is prohibited. Printed and published by Ashish
Bagga on behalf of Living Media India Ltd. Printed at Thomson Press India
Ltd., 18-35 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road, Faridabad-121007, (Haryana),
Published at K-9, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001. • India Today does
not take responsibility for returning unsolicited publication material.

Cover Design: AMIT SHARMA

CONTENTS



10

CES @2015

The latest tech innovations from the
Consumer Electronics Show, Las Vegas.

8

GG Choice: Asus X205TA

22

Digital Life: Watch Cricket World Cup 2015 in 4k

SPECIALS

→ Samsung Galaxy Note Edge →

→ Xiaomi Mi 4





TATA SKY IS ADVERTISING ABOUT CRICKET WORLD CUP 2015 TO BE STREAMED IN 4K RESOLUTION. HOW CAN I WATCH THE WORLD CUP IN THIS RESOLUTION?

SHEETAL, on email



A few selected matches will be streamed in 4k resolution. For this, you need to have a 4k TV and a 4k set-top box. We have a story in this edition of Gadgets & Gizmos you can refer to. However, other than the selected matches, there isn't any 4k content available readily.



HOW IS XIAOMI MI4? I WAS PLANNING TO BUY ONE. MY BUDGET IS ₹25,000. SHALL I GO FOR IT?

RITWIK, on email



Xiaomi Mi4 is a good device for ₹19,990 but it has only 16GB online storage and does not support an expandable memory card slot. This means the user accessible memory is close to 12GB, which might not be sufficient. I will suggest you to consider OnePlus One for ₹21,990, which comes with 64GB internal storage and has got a similar set of specifications.



I WANT TO BUY AN ANDROID SMARTPHONE, AND HAVE ZEROED IN ON THE MOTO G 2ND GENERATION AND THE SAMSUNG GALAXY S3 NEO. BUT NOW, I CAN'T DECIDE WHICH ONE TO BUY. WHILE THE MOTO G 2 HAS BETTER SOFTWARE SUPPORT AND RUNS VANILLA ANDROID APART FROM ALMOST NO BLOATWARE, THE GALAXY S3 NEO SCORES BETTER WHEN IT COMES TO SPECS, AND HAS A BETTER DESIGN. PLEASE SUGGEST AS I WILL USE MY NEW SMARTPHONE FOR MINIMUM TWO YEARS.

ARI, on email



Between Moto G 2nd generation and Samsung Galaxy S3 Neo, I will suggest you go for Motorola 2nd Generation as for this price, it is a deal. The Motorola Moto G has superior hardware.



HELP AT HAND

Having trouble with your laptop? Would like to boost your cell phone's capabilities? Want advice on what camera is best for your needs? Write to us with all your queries and we will have experts answering them.

Email us at **helpGG@intoday.com**

LETTERS



Great Magazine

Gadgets & Gizmos is a great magazine and I really loved the last two editions. The Gadget Awards for 2014 seemed to be genuine one and were not biased. Also, the gadgets to look out for was a cool feature that you should continue to publish every six months because companies launch gadgets every now and then. I would like to see more reviews of some boys' toys and offbeat gadgets like Nerf guns that you used to carry in the past.

RISHABH GUPTA, New Delhi

INTERACT WITH G&G

Visit us at: www.gadgetsngizmos.in



facebook.com/gadgetsandgizmos



twitter.com/gngmagazine

to catch up on tech news, comment on, discuss and read archived G&G stories.

Mail us at
lettersGG@intoday.com

All comments and suggestions printed on this page may be edited for length and clarity.

FAST TAKE

LENOVO A6000

LENOVO RECENTLY

launched India's
cheapest LTE
smartphone, the A6000.

It is powered by the
1.2GHz 64-bit quad-core
Qualcomm Snapdragon
410 processor along with
Adreno 306 GPU ,
8GB internal memory,
1GB RAM and a 2300
mAh battery. The device
has an 8MP rear camera
along with a 2MP fixed
focus front camera.
Running on Android 4.4
KitKat OS, it has two
SIM slots.



ACER ONE

ACER HAS UNVEILED its new 2-in-1 Acer One notebook cum tablet. This machine comes with four modes for touch, typing, viewing, and sharing at any time. Running on Windows 8.1 operating system, it has got a 10 inch HD Display and Intel Quad-core CPU. It has got 32GB onboard storage and will be available in two variants – 1GB and 2GB RAM.

► ₹19,999



STRONTIUM OTG IDRIVES

STRONTIUM TECHNOLOGY has launched a new line of drives – Strontium 128GB NITRO UHS-1 (U1) microSDXC flash card, Strontium On-The-Go (OTG) USB flash drive 3.0 and exclusive Strontium iDrive 3.0 (external storage for iPhone 6 and 6+). These external storage drives are designed for iPhones and iPads allowing users to store and transfer data between iPhone, iPad and Mac/PC without needing any cable. Up to 960 minutes of HD video, 26,208 photos or 16,000 MP3 songs can be stored in 64GB iDrive and played directly on iPhone or iPad. It is available in 16GB, 32GB and 64GB capacities and comes with 2 years Strontium Limited Warranty.

► ₹17,999 and ₹ 20,999

**MORE
LAUNCHES
HERE**



HIKE CALLS

HIKE MESSENGER has introduced a new feature, Hike Calls. The introduction of this feature will allow hike users to call each other for free, over 2G, 3G and Wi-Fi and across the globe in over 200 countries. Hike calls are optimized to consume very little data, giving its users more calling minutes per MB of data.



ASUS FONEPAD 8

ASUS HAS LAUNCHED an 8inch tablet with 3G functionality. This Android tablet has got a display with 1280x800 pixel IPS panel and dual front speakers. It is equipped with a 64-bit quad-core Intel Atom processor Z3530 1.33GHz that can run the latest apps and games. Built-in 3G connectivity and dual SIM slots provide crystal-clear voice calls. Fonepad8 is available with 16GB of onboard storage, which can be further expanded with up to 64GB of Micro SD Card storage. It has got a 4000 mAh battery.

► ₹13,999



LG INVERTER V AIR CONDITIONER

LG ELECTRONICS has announced the launch of its new range of air-conditioners, the Inverter V Air Conditioners with Mosquito Away technology. The new models also come with Himalaya Cool and Monsoon Comfort technologies, developed especially for Indian weather conditions. Ensuring 1.7 times faster cooling, the Inverter V Mosquito Away Air Conditioner has the Variable Tonnage Technology which reduces energy consumption by up to 66% along with protection from mosquito-borne diseases.

► ₹45,500 ONWARDS

X ROCKER

THIS NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART sound chair for X Rocker has been designed by Ace Bayou Corp. The chair comes with inbuilt speakers and subwoofer for an enhanced entertainment experience. The chair has a racy red trim with a black and grey frame and seat. It has a foldable construction and has got side control panel with volume, bass control and band switch. It has got an ergonomic design with full back support. It has also got a headphone jack for personal use and even plays content through Bluetooth devices.

► ₹12,999



TOMTOM GPS SPORTS WATCH

TOMTOM has launched its GPS Sports Watches in India. This range comprises four watches – TomTom Runner, Multi Sport, Runner Cardio and Multi-sport Cardio – starting at Rs 12,999 and going up to Rs 23,499. Aimed at runners, the TomTom Runner and Multi-Sport GPS watches offer real time information such as time, distance, heart rate, place, speed and calories burnt to runners, cyclists and swimmers.

► ₹12,999 ONWARDS



XIAOMI MI4

AFTER THE SUCCESS of the Mi3 in India, Xiaomi has now announced the launch of the Mi4. The Mi 4 has a stainless steel body and features a 5-inch IPS display with 1920 x 1080 pixels resolution at 441 ppi. It has a Corning Gorilla Glass 3 protection display. The smartphone runs on a 2.5-GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 CPU and has 3 GB of RAM. It runs on Android 4.4.3 KitKat operating system and is loaded with the MIUI 6 user interface. It packs in a 3080 mAh battery and quick charge 2.0.

► ₹19,999

SONY MDR Z7

THE MDR Z7 headphone from Sony is designed with 70mm HD driver unit. It offers powerful sub-bass lows to crystalline highs and allows a much greater 3D listening experience. The MDR Z7 has special inward axis structure for maximum wearing stability. It has special silver-coated OFC (Oxygen Free Copper) cable that reduces signal transmission loss.

► ₹41,999





MICROSOFT XBOX 360

AFTER LAUNCHING the Xbox One in India in September last year, the company has now announced a price drop for Xbox 360 4GB variant. The gaming console will be available for ₹12,990 and Xbox 360 with Kinect with the same storage for ₹21,990. The 250GB variant with Kinect is also getting a price drop. It is now available in the market for ₹29,990. Microsoft has also launched a new Xbox 360 variant with 500GB storage, priced at ₹19,990.



EKAVACH

IT is yet another mobile application for parents that helps them in keeping control over a child's activities across various digital media. It offers unique insights about the behavior and activities of kids when they are online and on the move, which can help parents to make better and more informed decisions about their children. It claims to offer protection to kids from falling prey to cyber bullying, inappropriate web content and other forms of online security risks.



BOAT PITCHER

BOAT HAS LAUNCHED a stylish and trend setter Bluetooth speaker – Pitcher. It is a compact Bluetooth speaker with 10 hours of battery backup of a single charge. It has an interactive prompts and speakerphone with mic. Its sophisticated airflow technology delivers ultra strong bass and dynamic sound performance. It is available in three colours – blue, black and mint.

► ₹3,990

CHOICE

Alternative option:
NONE

ASUS EeeBook X205T

RATING: 4.5/5

PRICE: ₹14,999

PLUS: Price, Design

MINUS: No Touchscreen,
Battery, USB 3.0

BAG IT OR JUNK IT:

Asus is back to reclaim the long-lost fame for laptops with its X205TA.

BEST OF ALL WORLDS

Asus's
EeeBook
X205T is
a budget
machine yet
a winner.

By Nidhi Singal



With the influx of smartphones and tablets over the past couple of years, netbooks died a slow death and laptops began losing their charm. Since then, the manufacturers have hit a wall in creating a product that failed to pack a punch. The only options they had was either to glamorize these machines, which made them expensive and niche, or to strip down that nothing was left as a performance tablet. Asus has done a great job with its EeeBook X205TA as it has got the best of both the worlds.

The X205TA is a beauty to look at and to hold. My review unit in dark blue colour had Asus branding etched at the centre of the soft panel. The machine has a 11.6-inch glare panel with 1366x768 pixel resolution and weighs only 980 grams. The keyboard is full-sized (minus the number pad) and with a trackpad. Side hinges are neat with the card reader, 3.5mm jack, a micro HDMI port and charging port on the left and two USB 2.0 slots on the right.

Considering the price tag of ₹14,999, this one is a loaded machine. It runs on Windows 8.1 and has an Intel Atom Z3735F processor clocked at 1.33Ghz. It has 2GB RAM and 32GB eMMC storage. While the onboard storage is a bit too less, Asus does offer 500GB cloud storage on this device. To make it slim and light, Asus has done away with the CD Drive. While the Windows 8.1 operating system is designed for laptops with a touch interface, this one doesn't have the latter.

The X205TA doesn't take much time to start. It powered up in less than 15 seconds and had a tile-based interface. A plenty of apps came pre-installed on the machine. The EeeBook isn't the best notebook in terms of performance but given the price it comes for, I am not complaining. It handles basic tasks brilliantly. It didn't slow down while multi-tab browsing, working on presentations or watching HD videos. However, it wasn't able to handle full HD videos as smoothly.

Asus claims 12 hours of battery backup but I got close to 10 hours on this machine. The company has a proprietary charging port. Thankfully, the charger is compact, and matches the design of this device.

A Mercedes-Benz Vision EQ concept car is showcased on a stage. The car is illuminated by blue and white lights, highlighting its sleek, aerodynamic design and the prominent Mercedes-Benz star emblem on the front grille. The background features a large screen displaying a pattern of horizontal lines. In the foreground, the silhouettes of a crowd of people are visible, many holding up smartphones to capture photos or videos of the car.

COVER STORY

The Pilgrimage



For Tech Lovers

THE INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW (CES) IS THE TECH WORLD'S GATHERING PLACE TO SHOWCASE INNOVATIONS AND TO SET TRENDS THAT WILL RULE THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS WORLDWIDE. CES IS HELD IN LAS VEGAS EVERY YEAR AND FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS HAS BEEN THE GLOBAL STAGE FOR TECH COMPANIES TO INTRODUCE NEXT-GENERATION INNOVATIONS. IN 2015, THE CES SHOWCASED INNOVATIONS FROM MORE THAN 3,600 EXHIBITORS. FORTUNATELY, WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS DOESN'T NECESSARILY STAY IN VEGAS. By Nidhi Singal and Siddhartha Sharma



THE FUTURE IS HERE: TOP TRENDS FROM THIS YEAR'S CES THAT ARE ALL SET TO WOO THE MASSES IN 2015

4K ULTRA HD

India is still far from full 4K television revolution, and mostly the problem is content. But tech companies firmly believe that 4K is here to stay. Thus came 4K Ultra HD TV showcases from major global television manufacturers. And by seeing the trend at CES 2015, the day is not far when manufacturers stop making 1080p televisions below 55-inches, opting for 4K Ultra HD TVs only in the larger category. Also, prices of these TVs are expected to drop this year. The 3840 x 2160 resolution revolution has started and India is on the map. Manufacturers like LG, Samsung, Sony and Sharp showed what all still can be done for the mother of all screens. LG and Samsung showed faith in the curved OLED display and they married the idea of curved display and 4K Ultra HD beautifully. Sony and Sharp stuck to the trusted flat display panels but reduced the thickness of the television by a mile. The new 4K Ultra HD TVs from Sony and Sharp were so thin that you can cut a Pizza into eight perfect slices. With major manufacturers backing the 4K revolution with ultra HD resolutions, this trend will lead the path for future displays for sure.





LG: Last year, LG unveiled its WebOS TVs. This year, it has announced TVs running on WebOS 2.0. The OLED Smart TVs include 4k models and some of them will feature Harman/Kardon audio and LG's Ultra surround sound system. The 4k lineup features the company's WRGB technology, which it says helps deliver lifelike colours. LG has also introduced flexible, curved and flat TVs.



SAMSUNG SUHD TV

LINEUP: Samsung has announced the SUHD TV lineup that will run on its Tizen OS and also uses its nano-crystal semiconductor technology. These Tizen-based smart TVs will feature more than 700 apps. It will come in three series – JS9500, JS9000 and JS8500. These TVs will be available in different sizes – 48 inch to 88 inch. The 'S' is said to represent the top-end smart TV models from the company. These TVs will also have Samsung's Chamfer bezel design. 7680×4320 resolution.

SMARTPHONES

Though innovation has somewhat saturated when it comes to smartphones, the CES2015 did see innovation and new launches in this category. LG showcased its LG G Flex 2 while Asus announced the world's most affordable smartphone with 4GB RAM. Samsung was expected to announce its next flagship Galaxy device but the company kept quiet. Here are some smartphones that caught our attention at the show:



ACER Z410: An affordable smartphone that caught our eye was the Liquid Z410 smartphone. This device will be available in Europe, Middle East, and Africa in February-end for €129. It will have a 4.5-inch display with Android 4.4.2 and will support 4G LTE (Cat. 4) connectivity.

ASUS ZENFONE 2: It's not always the flagship smartphones that make the news. Asus's ZenFone 2 is once such device that created a buzz. Expected to be available by March, the \$199 handset will be the first smartphone to have 4GB RAM. It will be powered by a 64-bit Intel Atom Z3580 quad-core processor clocked at 2.3GHz. The company also announced Asus ZenFone Zoom with a price tag of \$399.





LENOVO VIBE X2 PRO: The Chinese brand is always in the news for its laptops and tablets. This year the company has also announced some interesting smartphones – Vibe X2 Pro and Lenovo P90. The Vibe X2 Pro is the successor to the recently launched Vibe X2. It will be powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 quad-core processor clocked at 1.5Ghz. It will have 2GB of RAM, 32GB onboard storage and 13MP rear camera. The P90 will be the company's first device to run on a combination of a 64-bit Intel Atom Z3560 processor (2MB Cache, 4-Cores, 4-Threads, 1.8GHz Burst Frequency) with Intel's 5-mode XMM 7262 modem.



LG G FLEX 2: The only flagship smartphone announced at the CES was the LG G Flex 2. Successor to the G Flex, this one too has got a curved body and display. it features a 5.5-inch touch display and a self-healing back panel coating that prevents it from scratches. It will be the first smartphone to be powered by Qualcomm MSM8994 Snapdragon 810 and will run on Android Lollipop operating system.



SMARTWATCH

Alcatel One Touch has announced a smart watch that supports Android as well as iOS platform for sending notifications. The watch has got a USB port on the strap. Expected to be launched in March, it will be priced at \$150 and claims to offer two to three days of battery backup. Withings Activite Pop is also a great device. Priced at \$150, this one has got a waterproof silicone band. It connects by Bluetooth to the Withings Health Mate app (iOS-only) and diagnoses your sleep performance with a replaceable battery that can last up to eight months.



CONNECTED CARS: The biggest gadget that one can own is a car. And when an automobile starts thinking on its own, it's an altogether different world. At the Las Vegas Convention Center's North Hall, major auto giants like Ford, Volkswagen, Mercedes, Audi, Hyundai, Toyota showcased what was their idea of a connected car. The range varied from self-driving cars, to self-parking cars to cars with voice recognition. Ford, which in India at least started it all with Sync in its Eco Sport and then Sync 2.0 with AppLink in the Fiesta, came out with Sync 3.0 at the CES 2015. AppLink provides mobility solution apps for drivers along with voice recognition so that the driver is not involved with the infotainment panel much but rather concentrate on the road. Another interesting connected car was the Volkswagen self-parking car. The electric Volkswagen hatchback could memorise the track from driveway to parking and the driver can, just with a tap on their smartwatch, park their car.



VIRTUAL REALITY: After Facebook acquired Oculus Rift, it was expected that tech giants will venture into the field of virtual reality (VR). Not only did Oculus demonstrate its latest tech at the show but companies like Samsung and Google showed how easy it is to transform a smartphone into a immersive VR environment. The modern smartphone has sophisticated cameras and some even have 3D imaging technology in them. Samsung was seen taking advantage of this and integrated the Galaxy Note 4 into its virtual reality tech solution. Software makers and even filmmakers were seen showing interest in this future. There were also seen trying to come out with ways for users to create their own VR experiences.



HomeKit

INTERNET OF THINGS: We live in a very connected world now. About five years ago, automated homes were just a concept, now they are a reality. And with automated homes and connected lifestyle everything that you can see around you is connected via technology that is in the palm of your hand (smartphone). This has generated the idea of 'Internet of Things' (IoT). From refrigerators to home lighting, from security cameras to home entertainment, everything is connected now. Samsung and Panasonic showcased the idea of smart living at the CES 2015. IoT is here to stay and grow with Apple's homekit and Google's Nest being the key drivers.

OFFBEAT GADGETS @CES 2015

While we wait for the mainstream gadgets around these technologies to arrive later this year, here are some products, including accessories, that have already seen the light of the day and caught our attention at the CES 2015.

AVEGANT GLYPH PERSONAL THEATRE HEADSET:

An interesting accessory in the virtual reality space came from Avegant. Glyph is a consumer head mounted display with an optical engine called virtual retinal display (VRD). This looks like a normal over the ear headphones that can be flipped down to experience the VRD. It seamlessly switches between audio and video mode. According to Avegant, it has been designed in such a way that it holds the aesthetic of current headphone technology while integrating next generation optics for a premium video experience. Priced at \$599, it will be available for pre-order later this year.





SONY FDR-AX 33: During the show, Sony pulled the wraps off its 4K Handycam, which the company claims is the 'most compact' 4K handycam camcorder till date. This new camcorder features Balanced Optical SteadyShot™ (B.O.SS) image stabilisation and 4K 100Mbps high-bitrate recording. There is a manual ring and manual button to customise the needs of videographer. There is a three-inch LCD and an electronic viewfinder. The 4K video content shot with this camcorder can be played directly on a compatible 4K television. It can also trim 4K images from the video frames.

TOSHIBA TRANSFER JET: Toshiba has announced an adapter for smartphones, PCs and tablets that offers direct data transfer of up to 560 Mbps between two devices. The company has come up with a dongle for iOS devices with the lightning port, second generation USB adapter for Windows and microUSB adapter for Android devices. Connecting Transfer Jet adapter to compatible devices, launching the TransferJet app, selecting files and then touching the two adapters together initiates high-speed data transfer between two devices. This makes it ideal for wirelessly transferring high resolution images, videos and other content. Priced at \$79.99, it will go on sale in March.





KUBE : Ever heard of a Bluetooth speaker that turns into a cooler? Well, that's what the Kube is all about. Showcased at the CES platform, this is a perfect party gadget. It has got an internal battery that can last up to 20 hours on a single charge. Talking about sound, it can offer really loud sound at up to 110 decibels. It weighs nine kilogram. It has been built using premium materials and can handle rough usage too.



STRONE: Coming from an Australian start-up, Strone is designed to save on the roaming costs while travelling. This is a small device that connects to the Internet. Whenever you are travelling abroad, just insert your local SIM in this device. This device is capable of forwarding all the calls automatically to any Internet-connected mobile device anywhere in the world. A single call will consume minutes from the Strone plan which starts for as low as \$10 per month for up to 150 minutes of calls.

NETATMO WELCOME: Another interesting gadget on the CES 2015 floors was the Netatmo Welcome for home. This is a stylish camera that recognises the faces of the loved ones and sends the names of the people it recognises to the smartphone. There is a compatible app, which helps one to check who all are currently at home by accessing live stream and even past events. Welcome also notifies if it sees an unknown face.



SONY WALKMAN NW-ZX2: Sony has revived its Walkman player and this time it isn't meant for the masses. The new Walkman, priced at \$1,200, is designed for high-end audiophiles. It has got a black matte casing and the playback buttons are carved into the curved side.

DIGITAL LIFE



WATCH WORLD CUP IN 4K



The Cricket World Cup is round the corner. In the last World Cup, streaming in High Definition had enhanced the experience of watching the game. Four years on, we are now talking about 4k aka Ultra HD. Select matches, including the opening match between India and Pakistan, will be live streamed in 4k resolution. But you will need a 4k TV along with the 4k set-top box. Here are the best options you can choose from.

By Nidhi Singal

Toshiba Android Powered TV

TOSHIBA INDIA has launched an Android-powered 4k TV in India. This smart LED TV runs on Android 4.4 operating system. Offering countless apps, games and videos through Android platform, it is named as the L9460 series. It has Toshiba's CEVO 4K image processing engine that offers a new intensity in picture quality with four times as many pixels as Full HD. It will be available in 50, 65 and 84-inch screen sizes and are priced at ₹1,99,000, ₹3,69,900 and ₹10,49,000, respectively.



LG 42UB820T

THIS IS A 42-INCH 4K TV with Virtual Surround Plus feature. The top-down sound effect makes listener feels as if the sound is streaming right from the ceiling above them. LG has added a Bollywood mode for Indian content. It has a built-in Wi-Fi system and comprises a built in Wi-Fi chip similar to a smartphone, which lets you develop connectivity and access with the TV. It even supports MHL for streaming content from the phone to the TV using MHL cable. WiDi is another technology onboard that enables a swift and convenient connection among the LG TVs and laptop PCs without cables. **₹70,266**



VU 50inch 4k TV

VU TECHNOLOGIES, a California-based luxury brand, has launched a 50-inch 4K TV, the most affordable one. It has a straight line design with a sleek bezel. Physical controls and connectivity ports are at the rear. Weighing 18 kg, setting it up was quite easy. The TV has got great viewing angles too - 178 degrees horizontal and vertical, which means you can continue to watch TV while sitting on a side. The sound output is impressive for a small room measuring 20 feet as it packs in two 10 watt speakers. **₹74,327**



4k set-top box

HAVING A 4K TV will be of no use if you don't have a set-top box that will stream the world cup in 4k resolution. Here are the necessary details about the two.

Tata Sky 4k set: ₹6,400. This new set-top box will beam content at 3840 x 2160 resolution and supports Dolby Digital Plus 7.1 surround sound. It has 2 HDMI ports. The box will showcase Standard Definition (SD) and High Definition (HD) channels too. The existing subscribers can avail the box at ₹5,900.

4k Ultra HD Videocon D2H: It has 3840X 2160 pixel lines. It has got the Next Generation User Interface that provides a cutting-edge user experience. Existing subscribers can upgrade it for ₹5990 and the new box will come for ₹6,590.



Samsung HU8500

THIS 55INCH flat panel from Samsung is feature loaded. It has also added its UHD Picture Engine, where one can enjoy various kinds of content with near UHD-level picture quality, even if it's not from a UHD source. There is also an advanced Clear Motion Rate (CMR) technology, for fast moving scenes that look clear on the TV. It even supports motion control and can even use a range of simple finger gestures. There is an easy touchpad, motion control and Sports Mode too. It has got 4 HDMI ports and 3USB. **₹2,41,500**

TEST BENCH

GOT AN EDGE?

FLEXIBLE PHONES, curved smartphones... we have been talking about these futuristic designs for quite some time now. The Samsung Galaxy Note Edge seems to be a small step towards the future.

Mastering the Samsung Galaxy Note 4 further, the Note Edge has a single piece of glass beautifully bending and covering the right edge of the phone. As a result, the power key has been moved to the top and the display size has been increased from 5.5 inch to 5.6 inch. The S-Pen and the charging port continue to be at the bottom panel. The main display of the phone has 1440x2560 pixel area while the strip on the side has an additional 160 pixels. While there is a one single continuous glass panel, it has been divided into two screens using the software.

Samsung has tweaked its UI for the Note Edge and the one that it runs on is referred as the 'Revolving UI'. On the home screen, there is a call button on the bottom left and the app tray on the bottom right. The four dedicated shortcut apps have been done away with and a row of seven apps has been added to the display on the edge. This can be accessed by swiping the personalised message that appears on the strip. There are multiple panels with widgets and icons that can be added and



**BAG IT OR
JUNK IT:**

The Samsung Galaxy Note Edge is definitely a head turner but there isn't much value



accessed on the strip display. These panels can be added by visiting the Edge tab under the phone's setting. Even the personalised message can be edited from the same location. There is a separate notification bar on the strip display giving access to some rarely used apps – flashlight, measuring scale, stopwatch, timer and microphone. These can be launched and closed from the strip itself.

Samsung has smartly used the second display – while watching a video or listening to music, the controls move to the strip. Similarly, when using camera, the settings and the shutter key move to the strip, which makes it slightly difficult to operate. Thankfully, while browsing on Chrome, the strip display continues to be in the default mode. The strip once again comes into action in S Note. However, accessing the settings of the S Note with the

S Pen is comfortable. Notifications that appear on the top of the device also appear in the strip display. For instance, while downloading apps, the strip shows the message of successful installation or update. When installed Nova launcher on the Edge, the strip

display continued to perform the way it was performing with the Samsung UI.

While testing this smartphone, I often feared dropping the phone as the display on the side increases the chances of damaging the screen, which can turn out to be a costly affair. Also, the battery life was average as it gave me a day on a single charge.



**SAMSUNG
NOTE EDGE**

₹62,699

Plus: Innovation, display

Minus: Battery, restricted use of strip display

FALLING SHORT

DESIGN AND BUILT QUALITY: I had been waiting for this smartphone for a very long time. And watching the video of how the Mi4 was crafted (at the launch), I was super-excited. But I was disappointed after holding the Mi4 in my hand. The stainless steel rim running around the sides seems to be inspired by the iPhone 5S and does look good. But the white glossy plastic rear spoils the show and makes it slippery. It feels sturdy yet is heavy to hold at 149 grams. It packs in a 5-inch display with 1080x1920 pixel resolution and has been designed in such a way the phone doesn't feel too broad to hold. There is a SIM card slot on the left panel, volume control and power key on the right and charging jack at the bottom. The back is

non-removable, which means it doesn't support an expandable memory card slot.

User Interface and Operating System: Running on Android 4.4.4, the Mi 4 comes installed with MIUI6. This is a custom user interface designed by Xiaomi that offers a great level of customizations. Swiping up unlocks the phone. All the apps are scattered on the homescreens, just like iOS, and there isn't any app tray. There is a notification bar at the top that gives a quick access to notifications and shortcuts such as mobile data, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, torch, etc. along with the music player controls. The icons look neat and colourful. All the Google apps were clubbed together and added to a folder. Flipkart, WPS Office, Mi Remote are a few apps





XIAOMI MI 4

₹19,990

Plus: Display, Camera

Minus: Heavy to hold, limited storage

Specs: Android 4.4; 2.5GHz quad-core processor; 3GB RAM; 16GB internal storage; WiFi, 3G, GPS, Bluetooth; 149 grams; 3080mAh battery



BAG IT OR JUNK IT:

Mi4 isn't the best phone at this price. Consider OnePlus One 64GB variant priced at ₹21,990.

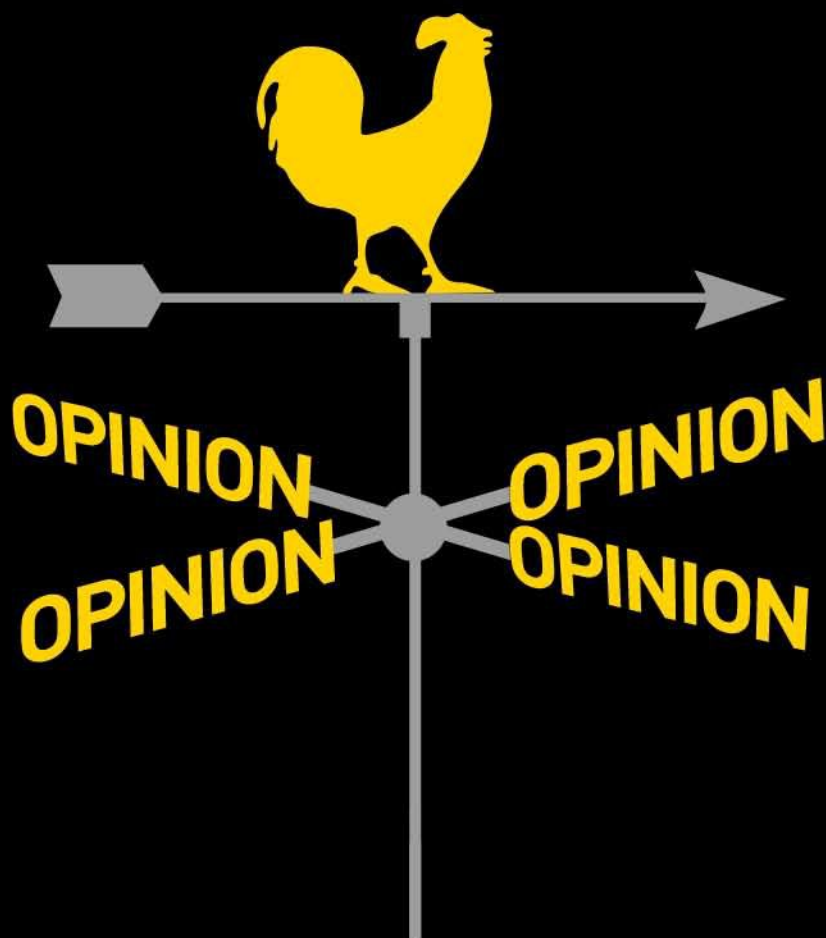
pre-installed on the phone. While setting up the smartphone, one can choose the default keyboard out of the five options available – Swiftkey, Google keyboard, Google Pinyin Input, Flexsy and Google Hindi Input.

Hardware and Performance: The performance of the Mi4 is impressive. Browsing on the Chrome browser was smooth and there wasn't any lag in multi-tab browsing either. Switching between multiple apps running in the background was smooth. It handled YouTube videos and gaming with ease. It packs in a 2.5Ghz quad-core processor on Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 chipset and has 3GB of RAM, the same as on the OnePlus One. However, the phone comes with 16GB of internal storage, of which, only 12.27GB is user accessible. Also, it doesn't support a memory card slot. Also, the one launched in India supports 3G and not LTE.

Camera: It has a 13MP rear camera and an 8MP front-facing one. The camera interface

is slightly different and you will take some time to master it. The camera software supports face recognition and even shows the gender and age. There is a panorama mode, HDR, Refocus, filters and burst shoot settings too. The images captured using this phone came out clear, sharp and rich in colours. However, the edges were not that sharp. The night shots too looked good. Overall, I was impressed with the camera quality.

Battery: The 3,080mAh battery on the Mi4 was good enough to last me a day on a single charge. If used wisely, it can stretch up to a day and a half.



OPEN TO OPINION

www.dailyo.in